

EQUITY@ECSITE

Science Engagement striving for social justice

Our vision is a society where all people, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, disability or socio-economic inequality, feel empowered to consider science to be a valuable, relevant, attainable and enriching aspect of their daily lives and culture.

We envision sincere commitment of science centres and museums towards Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Access. Acknowledging that science communication is related to structural inequalities, hierarchies and cultural imperialism, we should as a field strive for embedded, lasting and positive change to accomplish social justice across our organisations and in our society.

Who are we?

Equity@Ecsite is a collective of science engagement professionals advocating to get inclusion, equity, diversity and social justice to the top of our strategic agendas, so that we no longer fail an important part of our potential audiences and potential co-workers.

We aim to harvest the collective experiences, efforts and commitment within our network and beyond.

Contact us

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Our Mission is to support institutions and individuals driving such change by providing:

- structured and specific resources (framework with indicators, assessment tools, literature)
- community and capacity building (exchange, pioneers, mentoring, trainings)
- advocacy (articles, conference contributions)

Through changing the practices in science engagement, we expect to:

- Reinforce the role that Science Centers and Science Museums can take as valuable community assets and community resources.
- Promote equal access to the understanding and development of scientific processes, skills and knowledge to support citizen education and identity with science, and ability to leverage science for community needs and purposes.
- Promote Science and Informal Science Learning as an exemplar, an opportunity and a matrix for wider diversity and inclusion (social, gender, physical, etc) programmes.
- Provide piloted methods and tools that are considered significantly effective in promoting inclusive public engagement in science, in a time of crucial need for effective communication.

What we have already achieved (1/2)

› **Framework:** A developed, draft framework that explores how social inclusion, equity and diversity should be embedded in the work of science centers and museums. It is structured by five areas for manifestation of change: Strategy, Content, Access, Staff, Partnerships. For each, the framework contains indicators, initial steps, resources and good practice.

The framework is complemented by reflective tools to assess an institutional situation and focus.

The framework is a living document currently being piloted and hosted in a mock-up website: <https://tinyurl.com/diversci-eu>

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June 2019

Community of Practice and DiverSci advocates

Professional support by facilitation of online synchronous CoP, asynchronous discussions, resources and practice exchanges and field-wide awareness for the topic through collaboration and advocacy – involved individuals, institutions and stakeholders; visibility in professional community and beyond (ongoing)

January 2021

Framework

Framework for institutional change of science centers and museums towards social inclusion, equity and diversity – developed and successfully piloted

October 2021

Website

Coherent and integrated web portal DiverSCI (Diversity-Inclusion-Values-Equity-Responsibility in Science Communication) for international advocates – developed and launched

December 2021

Showcases

Inspiring international showcases for implementation of the DiverSCI framework – change processes within pioneer institutions initiated, mentored and reflected, framework refined, lessons learned made available

What we have already achieved (2/2)

- › **Project team:** A committed project team of 12 partners, representing European science centers and museums
- › **Community and platform:** More than 30 advocates across Europe and beyond who are actively and voluntarily contributing to the work.
- › **A Basecamp platform** that informs 160 registered users from 25 countries about progress, events and publications on the topic.
- › Bi-monthly online **Community of practice** meetings facilitating collective learning and exchange.
- › **Pioneers:** 17 European science engagement organisations committed to becoming pioneers for institutional change towards diversity, equity and inclusion. The Pioneers are diverse in size, geographic location, catchments and funding models.

What we need

A large part of this work has been contributed voluntarily by the individuals and institutions involved over the last years.

The Collaborative Grant from the European network of science centers and science museums (ECSITE) for 2020 allowed us to prioritise and progress this important work.

Further funding of at least 20.000€ is essential for our next phase until end of 2021 to complete the ongoing work with the pioneers, finish the framework and launch the web platform as scheduled.

Beyond that immediate support, we are looking for a long-term international partner committed to equity, diversity, inclusion and social justice to further develop and drive the change process within the international science center and museum field.

